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## INTERNATIONAL LAW.

The Pan-American Congress, April 18, adopted this report on international law, the United States and Nicaragua voting no.

1. Foreigners are entitled to enjoy the privileges enjoyed by natives, and they shall be accorded all the benefits of said rights in all that is essential as well as in the former procedure and the legal remedies incident thereto absolutely in like manner as said natives.

2. A nation has not, nor does it recognize in favor of foreigners any other obligations or responsibilities than those which in favor of the natives are established in like cases by the constitution and the laws.

3. Rivers which separate several States or which bathe their territory, shall be open to the free navigation of the merchant marine or ships of war of the riparian nations.

4. This declaration shall not affect the jurisdiction nor the sovereignty of any of the riparian nations either in time of peace or war.

During the day the following scheme of arbitration was adopted, Chili alone declining to vote:

1. That the principle of conquest shall not, during the continuance of the treaty of arbitration, be recognized as admissible under American public law.

2. That all cessions of territory made during the continuance of the treaty of arbitration shall be void if made under threats of war or the presence of an armed force.

3. Any nation from which such cessions shall be exacted may demand that the validity of the cessions made shall be submitted to arbitration.

4. Any renunciation of the right of arbitration made under the conditions named in the second section shall be null and void. Those conditions are under threats of war or the presence of armed force.

The conference will meet to-morrow at 11 o'clock to sign the minutes of to-day's closing session. Secretary Blaine will then deliver a closing address, and the delegates, at 12 o'clock, will call upon President Harrison at the White House. Returning to their hall the conference will be formally declared adjourned.

## A REQUEST TO THE PRESIDENT.

## THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

The House of Representatives agreed April 4, 1890, to the Senate Resolution known as the "Sherman Concurrent Resolution," "requesting the President to invite from time to time, as fit occasion may arise, negotiations with any government with which the United States may have diplomatic relations, to the end that any differences or disputes arising between the governments which cannot be adjusted by diplomatic agency may be referred to arbitration."

A delegate of the American Peace Society was in Washington to promote this very object when the House concurred with the Senate and this resolution received the unanimous endorsement of the Congress of the United States. So many causes contributed to this result that it would be invidious to claim the credit of it for any one of them. The special agitation on the subject commenced in 1887, at the visit of the Parliamentary Delegation from Great Britain. Congress thus places itself alongside of the British Parliament which passed a similar resolution by a small majority, on motion of Henry Richard, in 1873.

All Peace Societies in the United States have advocated this resolution, not as the full measure of their desires, but as what they could get—a step at least in the right direction. It gives the moral weight of congressional approval to international arbitration, and "requests" the President to seek opportunities to propose it. The weakness of the resolution appears in its merely advisory character, and the words "as fit occasion may arise." A President inclined to trust to force rather than reason, or whose habits of mind were cautious and dilatory might never find "fit occasion." But we are thankful for so much, and will now renew our efforts to obtain direct arbitral treaties and an international tribunal.

This is a fit and proper piece of legislation to precede and pave the way for the Conference of the members of National Parliaments and Congresses which is to meet in London July 21, 1890.

## THE POPE ON SOCIAL REFORM AND DISARMAMENT.

The following sentiments honor alike the position and the man who is the acknowledged head of the Catholic Church. "There are two things in the world at present that need especial attention—slavery and the social question. To abolish slavery I have established colleges and am sending out missionaries into Africa and wherever men are held in bondage. The true way to free them is to educate and Christianize them. An enlightened man cannot be enslaved. For that reason I shall devote the energies of the church to the spread of knowledge among the poor savages. Humanity must aid me to teach these unfortunates and save them from slavery.

"The social question can only be solved by increasing the morality of the world.

"It is for the church to Christianize the world and teach morality and charity. The moral condition of both the workingman and his employer must be raised. I intend to have committees formed in every diocese in the world. Each committee shall have the bishop as its head and shall consist either of workingmen or those who sympathize and associate with them. On fast days and whenever there is rest from labor these committees will call the toilers together, discuss their duties and teach and inspire them with true morality. Sound rules of life must be founded on religion."

The pope spoke with emotion about his desire for the disarmament of Europe. "The existence of these vast armies is a source of displeasure and sorrow to the Holy See. The military life is injuring hundreds of thousands of young men. It surrounds them with violent and immoral influences, it crushes all their higher spiritual life and tends to harden and degrade them. These armies are not merely full of spiritual perils, but they drain the countries of wealth. So long as Europe is filled with soldiery so long will all this labor be withdrawn from the soil and the poor will be overburdened with taxes to support the system. The armies of Europe are impoverishing the population." The above excellent sentiments are quoted from an interview with the Pope by a correspondent of the *New York Herald*.

—The site of Andersonville Prison is now part of a large farm belonging to a negro, and the plantation of Jefferson Davis is now owned by one of his former slaves.